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BOROUGH OF FAVERSHAM



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for

1955



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ANNUAL REPORT  
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J.T. MURPHY

M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH



THE TOWN COUNCIL  
OF THE  
BOROUGH OF FAVERSHAM

-----  
THE MAYOR

\* Councillor Charles Geoffrey Hine

THE DEPUTY MAYOR

\* Councillor Alfred William Hulkes

ALDERMEN :

F.G. Johnson

\* Phil Johnson, O.B.E.

\* J.H. Johnson

J.W. Videan

COUNCILLORS :

R.S. Amor

\* Miss. F.E. Graham

\* Mrs. P.K. Johnson

\* A.L. King

\* H.P. Lee-Roberts

\* G.C. Ely

\* Mrs. A. Johnson

J.A.E. Jones

H. Knowles

\* A.A. Salmon

(\*Denotes members of the Health Committee)

TOWN CLERK :

S. Wilson

-----  
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

to the Borough and Port of Faversham

John Terence Murphy, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

SANITARY INSPECTOR

to the Borough and Port (Eastern Section) of Faversham

Mr. A.J. Hurn, C.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

SANITARY INSPECTOR

Port of Faversham (Western Section)

Mr. A. Leslie, M.S.I. A., A.R. San.I.

Chief Sanitary Inspector Sittingbourne and Milton U.D.C.

CLERK (Part-time)

Miss. C. Avery.

Municipal Offices,  
Faversham.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of the Borough for 1955 including a report on the Port Health Area.

The death rate, Infant Mortality rate and the incidence of Infectious Disease are the yard-sticks by which the health of the population is judged and these give grounds for satisfaction.

There were five infant deaths, four of which took place in the neo-natal period. All were associated with causes of a congenital nature.

The incidence of Infectious Diseases was swollen during the year by the large Measles epidemic which however, proved to be mainly mild in character.

Housing of families who are either living in rooms or unfit houses is still a major work of the Council and it is hoped that in spite of financial stringency this great social work will increase with added tempo. Unsatisfactory housing conditions are responsible for many mental and physical illnesses and the Council is to be congratulated on their foresight in establishing their Slum Clearance programme several years in advance of National Slum Clearance.

The Council's five-year programme which proposes to deal with about 200 houses was accepted by the Minister of Housing and Local Government last August and its completion will put an end to the worst properties within the Borough. However, it must be realised that a very considerable number of houses will still remain that are deficient in modern amenities, such as bathrooms, internal hot water systems and properly constructed well ventilated larders. It should now be established that water closets situated in various parts of the garden approached during the long winter nights in darkness, coldness, rain and snow are not much help in bringing up young families and inculcating good hygiene habits. It is to be deprecated that there are not a larger number of landlords taking advantage of the improvement grants whereby their properties with the aid of subsidy up to a maximum of £460 could be brought up near the standard of the Council property.

Slum Clearance and the advent of the New Food Hygiene Regulations has considerably increased the work of the health department but its efficiency is being continuously embarrassed by lack of clerical assistance.

I must record my thanks to my colleagues for their help and co-operation during the year and especially to Mr. Hurn for his help in compiling this report. I would also thank the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their helpful advice throughout the year.

I am,  
Your Obedient Servant,

J.T. Murphy.

SECTION I  
STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS  
OF THE AREA

Climatology

The total rainfall during the year was 26.6 inches as compared with 27.43 inches in 1954 and 20.34 in 1953.

The Maximum and Minimum temperatures, together with the rainfall recorded each month, are shown in Appendix "A".

Area

3,070 acres. No change.

Population

The estimated mid-year population for 1955 as given by the Registrar General was 12,330, an increase of 60 over the estimated population for the previous year.

Number of Inhabited Houses

The number of inhabited houses at the end of 1955 was 4,452 as compared with 4,383 at the end of 1954. Towards this increase 80 houses (including 12 flats) were provided by the Council, 11 Almshouses converted to form 22 flats and 8 were constructed privately. During the year 30 houses ceased to be used as habitations either by reason of demolition or conversion to other purposes, so the net increase in habitable houses was 69.

Rateable Value

£83,482 as compared with £81,051.

Sum Represented by the Penny Rate

£309. 10s. 2.29d., a decrease of £12, 12s. 4.03d. on the figure for 1954.

SECTION IIVITAL STATISTICSBirths

The number of births during 1955 was 190. This is a slight decrease from the previous year, i.e. 198.

Of the total births belonging to the area (190) during 1955 14 were born in a local Nursing Home and 64 were born outside the area. Of the latter 43 were born at Kent and Canterbury Hospital. Hillside Nursing Home closed during October, 1955. There is now no private maternity accommodation in the Borough.

	Males	Females	Total
(i) Live Births - Legitimate	105 (112)	80 ( 82)	185 (194)
Illegitimate	3 ( 1)	2 ( 3)	5 ( 4)
Totals	108 (113)	82 ( 85)	190 (198)

(ii) Still Births - The number of still births in 1955 was 2 being one less than in 1954. This represents 1.0% of all live and still births.

(iii) Illegitimate Births - These numbered 5 during 1955 being one more than in the previous year. The percentage of illegitimate births to total births was 2.6%. 1954 percentage was 2.0%.

(iv) Birth Rate - The crude birth rate for the year was 15.4 per 1,000 of the estimated population.

The corrected birth rate for 1955 was 16.2.

The birth rate for England and Wales as a whole was 15.0 per 1,000 of the population.

(v) Table II shows the number of births and the birth rates since 1946 and the number of illegitimate births each year during the same period.

Deaths

(a) The number of deaths occurring in and assignable to the Borough during 1955 was 227. Of these 107 were males and 120 females, being 7 more than in the previous year. Commencing 1st January, 1954 all deaths occurring at Bensted House irrespective of whether the person was previously a resident in Faversham or not are now assigned to Faversham. Of the 227 deaths 86 occurred at Bensted House.

(b) The following table shows the age groups in which the deaths occurred:-

TABLE I

Sex	Under one year											Total
	1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75-	85 and over		
Males	4	-	-	-	3	7	13	18	48	14	107	
Females	1	1	1	-	-	1	6	12	18	52	28	120
Totals	5	1	1	-	-	4	13	25	36	100	42	227

The average age of death was 73.2 years, being 71.1 for males and 75.0 for females. The oldest death was that of a female aged 99 years.

(c) The crude death rate for 1955 was 18.4 per 1,000 of the population as compared with 17.9 in the preceding year. The corrected death rate i.e., the rate adjusted for age and sex distribution to that of England and Wales as a whole, was 13.1 per 1,000. The rate for England and Wales was 11.7 per 1,000.

(d) Table II shows the number of death rates since 1946 and Table III shows the causes of death during 1955 classified by the Registrar General under 36 headings based on the Abbrcviated List of the International Classification of Disease, Injuries and Cause of Death.

TABLE II

Births, Deaths and Infant Mortality - 1946 - 1955

Year	Births			Deaths			Infant Mortality	
	Illegiti- mate births	Total live Births	Crude birth Rate	No. of Deaths	Crude Death Rate	Total Infant Deaths	Infant Mortality Rate	
1946	3	389	32.5	160	13.4	11		28.3
1947	17	254	30.8	171	14.0	7		27.1
1948	16	225	18.5	166	13.6	8		35.5
1949	9	218	17.6	184	14.9	4		18.3
1950	4	188	14.9	157	12.4	8		42.5
1951	6	175	14.2	150	12.2	5		28.5
1952	12	203	16.6	267	21.8	5		24.6
1953	13	191	15.5	232	18.9	4		20.9
1954	4	198	16.1	220	17.9	3		15.2
1955	5	190	15.4	227	18.4	5		26.3

TABLE III

Classification of Causes	Males	Females	Total
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	1 ( 3)	1 ( 1)	2 ( 4)
2. Tuberculosis, other	- ( -)	- ( -)	- ( -)
3. Syphilitic disease	- ( 1)	- ( -)	- ( 1)
4. Diphtheria	- ( -)	- ( -)	- ( -)
5. Whooping Cough	- ( -)	- ( -)	- ( -)
6. Meningococcal infections	- ( -)	- ( -)	- ( -)
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	- ( -)	- ( -)	- ( -)
8. Measles	- ( -)	- ( -)	- ( -)
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	- ( 1)	1 ( -)	1 ( 1)
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3 ( 4)	1 ( 5)	4 ( 9)
11. " " lungs bronchus	5 ( 3)	- ( 1)	5 ( 4)
12. " " breast	- ( -)	5 ( 1)	5 ( 1)
13. " " uterus	- ( -)	1 ( 2)	1 ( 2)
14. Other malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms	15 ( 10)	8 ( 11)	23 ( 21)
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	4 ( -)	- ( -)	4 ( -)
16. Diabetes	1 ( -)	1 ( -)	2 ( -)
17. Vascular Lesions of nervous System	16 ( 19)	21 ( 23)	37 ( 42)
18. Coronary disease, angina	7 ( 12)	10 ( 8)	17 ( 20)
19. Hypertension with heart disease	1 ( 1)	2 ( 2)	3 ( 3)
20. Other heart disease	33 ( 29)	46 ( 40)	79 ( 69)
21. Other circulatory disease	3 ( 3)	6 ( 5)	9 ( 8)
22. Influenza	- ( 1)	1 ( -)	1 ( 1)
23. Pneumonia	2 ( -)	1 ( -)	3 ( -)
24. Bronchitis	2 ( 4)	1 ( 3)	3 ( 7)
25. Other disease of respiratory system	- ( 2)	- ( -)	- ( 2)
26. Ulcer of stomach & duodenum	4 ( 1)	- ( -)	4 ( 1)
27. Gastritis, enteritis & Diarrhoea	- ( -)	- ( 1)	- ( 1)
28. Nephritis & nephrosis	- ( -)	- ( -)	- ( -)
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	- ( 2)	- ( -)	- ( 2)
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	- ( -)	- ( -)	- ( -)
31. Congenital malformations	1 ( 1)	2 ( 1)	3 ( 2)
32. Other defined & ill-defined diseases	7 ( 6)	8 ( 3)	15 ( 9)
33. Motor vehicle accidents	- ( 2)	1 ( 1)	1 ( 3)
34. All other accidents	1 ( -)	2 ( 3)	3 ( 3)
35. Suicide	1 ( 3)	1 ( 1)	2 ( 4)
36. Homicide & operations of war	- ( -)	- ( -)	- ( -)
All causes	107 ( 108)	120 ( 112)	227 ( 220)

(Figures in brackets refer to the preceding year)

## Infant Mortality

The number of deaths of infants under 1 year was 5 in 1955 being two more than in the previous year. The infant mortality rate for the year was 26.3. Infant Mortality rate for England and Wales as a whole was 24.9.

The number of infant deaths each year and the infant mortality rate since 1946 is shown in Table II.

Particulars in regard to the deaths that occurred in 1955 were as follows:-

Cause of Death	Sex	Age at Death	Place of Birth	Place of Death
Prematurity	M	19 hours	Hospital	Hospital
Pulm. Atelectasis }	F	30 mins.	Hospital	Hospital
Congenital Cystic kidneys)				
Anoxia }	M	1 day	Hospital	Hospital
Pulm. Atelectasis)				
Cachexia, Congenital)				
Heart Disease, ) M		10 months	Home	Hospital
Fibrocystic pancreas, )				
Pertussis )				
Prematurity	M	3 days	Home	Hospital

## SECTION III

### INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

The number of infectious diseases notified in 1955 was 482 being 345 more than in the previous year, (137 cases in 1954). This increase is due to the large number of measles notified, 447. Three cases of food poisoning were notified during the year. Two cases occurred in one family in which a middle aged woman died from gastro-enteritis (*Salmonella typhi murium*) complicated by myocarditis and Simmonds Disease. One other member of this family was a symptomless excretor of *Salmonella Typhi murium*. *Salmonella Typhi murium* was isolated from the remains of brisket of beef taken from a dustbin and no other evidence of contaminated food was obtained. It would appear therefore, that the beef had been contaminated by a member of the household after it had been cooked.

Total number of Infectious Diseases occurring and the number admitted to hospital and the total deaths from diseases as shown in the Registrar General's classification of deaths are shown in Table IV and the age distribution of cases occurring is shown in Table V.

TABLE IV

Disease	No. of Cases	Admission to Hospital or Sanatorium	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	4 ( 2 )	4	-
Whooping Cough	5 (107)	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	4 ( - )	4	-
Measles	447 ( 4 )	-	-
Pneumonia	17 ( 9 )	3	3
Dysentery	1 ( 7 )	1	-
Erysipelas	- ( - )	-	-
Meningococcal Infections	- ( - )	-	-
Food Poisoning	3 ( 1 )	-	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	- ( 1 )	-	-
Tuberculosis			
Pulmonary	1 ( 6 )	-	2
Non-Pulmonary	- ( - )	-	-
 Totals	482 (137)	12	6

TABLE V

### Age Group Distribution - Infectious Disease

Table VI shows the incidence of Infectious Disease in the Borough in 1955 in comparison with the previous ten years.

TABLE VI

Incidence of Infectious Disease during the undermentioned years.

Disease	1945	'46	'47	'48	'49	'50	'51	'52	'53	'54	'55
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	3	3	6	6	14	34	3	5	2	2	4
Diphtheria	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	126	136	11	206	13	373	106	372	79	4	447
Whooping Cough	42	31	92	46	8	49	256	9	79	107	5
Erysipelas	-	2	-	3	1	2	4	1	2	-	-
Pneumonia	-	2	7	5	10	8	14	15	18	9	17
Typhus Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	1
Typhoid & Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	-	3	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	4
Encephalitis Lethargica	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	12	45	-	-	1	-	8	1	3
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	-	2	2	-	-	3	-	2	1	-
Malaria	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS1. Incidence and Deaths

Only one case of Pulmonary Tuberculosis was notified during 1955, 5 less than in the previous year. There were no cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified.

During 1955 2 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis were notified.

Table VII shows the number of cases notified and the deaths attributed to Tuberculosis since 1946.

TABLE VIITuberculosis - Notifications and Deaths - 1946 - 1955

Year	No. of Primary Notifications received		Deaths		Death Rate per 10,000 of Population	
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
1946	8	2	6	-	5.0	-
1947	10	5	3	-	2.4	-
1948	23	8	6	1	4.9	0.8
1949	8	8	5	1	4.1	0.8
1950	4	5	2	-	1.5	-
1951	8	1	5	-	4.0	-
1952	20	1	3	-	2.4	-
1953	9	2	-	-	-	-
1954	6	-	4	-	3.3	-
1955	1	-	2	-	0.8	-

2. Tuberculosis Register

The number and types of cases at present in the Area and on the Tuberculosis Register are shown in Table VIII.

TABLE VIIISummary of Tuberculosis Register

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Totals
	M	F	M	F	
On Tuberculosis Register 1/1/55.	44 (41)	40 (37)	16 (18)	10 (12)	110 (108)
Transferred to Borough	- ( 3 )	- ( 2 )	- ( - )	- ( - )	- ( 5 )
Notified in Borough	1 ( 3 )	- ( 3 )	- ( - )	- ( - )	1 ( 6 )
Returned to Borough	- ( - )	- ( 1 )	- ( - )	- ( - )	- ( 1 )
	45 (47)	40 (43)	16 (18)	10 (12)	111 (120)
Deaths	1 ( 3 )	1 ( 1 )	- ( - )	- ( - )	2 ( 4 )
Removed from Borough	2 ( - )	2 ( 2 )	- ( - )	- ( - )	4 ( 2 )
Recovered	2 ( - )	3 ( - )	5 ( 2 )	1 ( 2 )	11 ( 4 )
Balance remaining on Register 31/12/55.	40 (44)	34 (40)	11 (16)	9 (10)	94 (110)

I am indebted to Dr. O. Clarke, Consultant Chest Physician for the following further particulars regarding patients from the Faversham Area:-

(a) Number of patients from the Borough of Faversham who attended the Chest Clinic during 1955 (this includes contacts, etc.)	... 177
(b) Total number of attendances during the year by patients in (a) above	... 384
(c) Number of patients from the Borough of Faversham who received Sanatorium treatment during year.	... 9

#### IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

##### 1. Diphtheria Immunisation

The County Medical Officer reports that during 1955 150 children under 5 years of age and 14 children between the ages of 5 and 15 were immunised against Diphtheria, and a further 246 children received re-inforcing inoculations, (176 under 5 years of age and 33 children between the ages of 5 and 15 years during 1954).

##### 2. Vaccination Against Smallpox

The County Medical Officer also reports that during the same period 147 primary vaccinations and 12 re-vaccinations against Smallpox were carried out. Of the 147 primary vaccinations, 81 were children under 1 year of age and 57 of children aged 1 to 2 years - total 138.

#### SECTION IV

#### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

##### 1. National Health Services

Local Authority Health Services under the National Health Service Act are provided and administered by the Kent County Council. These Services include the Care of Mothers and Young Children, the provision of Midwives, Health Visiting and Home Nursing, Vaccination and Immunisation, Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care, and Domestic Help Services.

Chest Clinics and the care of Tuberculosis patients are the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board, as also is Mental Welfare.

The various clinics in connection with these Services are held as follows:-

Clinics and Sessions

(a) <u>Queen's Hall</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>
Child Welfare Ante-natal, Post-natal	Tues. and Friday	2 - 4 p.m.
	Monday	2 - 4 p.m.

(immunisation is carried out at the Child Welfare Clinic, on Friday Afternoons, if required, but vaccinations are all referred to own Doctor).

(b) <u>School Clinic</u> <u>Solomon's Lane</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>
Relaxation classes	Monday	2.30 - 3.30 p.m.
Minor Ailments Clinic	(Wednesday)	9 - 10 a.m.
	(Saturday)	9 - 12 noon.

(c) <u>Chest Clinic</u> <u>South Road</u>		
	Thursday (by appointment)	10.30 a.m.

Cases for X-Ray and Artificial Pneumothorax are referred to the Kent and Canterbury Hospital as and when required.

(d) Domestic Help - Application can be made at the Kent County Welfare Office, West Street, Faversham. Mon., Tues., Fri.; 9 - 10 a.m. or Wed., Thurs., Sat.; 9 a.m. - 12 noon.

(e) Psychiatric - Clinic  
South Road

This clinic is held every Thursday at 5.0 p.m.  
Appointments are made through St. Augustine's Hospital.

2. School Health Services

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer for the following information on the work of the School Health Service in the Borough.

(i) Medical Inspection:-

(a) Number of Children inspected (periodic inspections)	641	(779)
--	-----	-------

(b) Number found requiring treatment	125	(130)
(c) Percentage requiring treatment	19.5%	(16.6%)
(d) Frequency of main defects requiring treatment		
Eyes	43.2%	(34.7%)
Ear, Nose and Throat	10.6%	(25.1%)
Orthopaedic	17.7%	(21.7%)
Heart & Circulation	.7%	(.3%)
Lungs	4.9%	(.3%)

(ii) Classification of General Condition of Pupils:-

Age Groups	Number of Pupils Inspected	'A' (Good)		'B' (Fair)		'C' (Poor)	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Entrants	95	26	27.4	64	67.4	5	5.2
Second Age Group	189	72	38.1	113	59.8	4	2.1
Third Age Group	108	6	5.5	95	88.0	7	6.5
Other Periodic Inspections	249	104	41.8	133	53.4	12	4.8
Total	641	208	32.4	405	63.2	28	4.4

(iii) Dental Inspection and Treatment

(a) Number of children inspected	1,242	(1,214)
(b) Number found to require treatment	656	(488)
(c) Percentage requiring treatment	52.8%	(40.2%)

(iv) Infestation with Vermin

(a) Total number of examinations in the schools by the school nurses or other authorised persons	5,997	(5,866)
(b) Total number of individual pupils found to be infested	18	(22)
(c) Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing notices were issued (Section 54 (2) Education Act, 1944).	-	(9)

(v) Comment

These figures indicate that generally the health and physical condition of the children in the Borough remains good.

SECTION VSANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA1. General Sanitary Circumstances(a) Water Supply

The main supply is from deep wells in the chalk, the undertakers being the Faversham Water Company. The Company has pumping stations at Copton and Ospringe with a storage reservoir of 1,000,000 gallons capacity at Porters Lane. Chlorination of the water is carried out before its entry into the service mains.

Eight samples of treated water and four of untreated water were taken during the year for bacteriological examination at the County Laboratory. All were satisfactory. Similar samples taken by the Company were also reported to be of excellent quality.

There are less than a dozen houses in the Area which are dependant on private wells and which do not at present receive a main supply.

(b) Drainage and Sewerage

There have been no extensions to the existing sewers during the year apart from those necessary for the Council's new housing scheme at Lower Road. During the year the Council commenced the emptying of cesspools in the unsewered portions of the Borough, i.e. Brogdale Road, Ashford Road, Selling Road, Oare Road and the village of Preston. Four free emptyings are given during the year. This service appears to be operating satisfactorily and is providing a long felt need.

(c) Scavenging

House refuse is disposed of at the Council's refuse tip at Preston Chalk Pit and occasionally at a tip in the brickfield at Ospringe.

This service is administered by the Borough Engineer and Surveyor.

(d) School Sanitation

This is generally satisfactory and all schools are connected to the main sewerage system. There have been no alterations during the year.

(e) Public Conveniences

New Public Conveniences for the accommodation of men and women were erected during the year in the Recreation Ground. These are of modern design and add greatly to the amenities of the Recreation Ground. Two old type iron urinals at Creek Bridge and Whitstable Road have been removed.

(f) Hop-pickers Camps

There are two encampments in the Council's district at Queen Court, Ospringe and Westwood Court, Selling Road. The camps are composed of timber or corrugated iron and timber huts erected in rows with an average of 100 to 150 square feet of floor space per hut.

The huts are occupied during September, mostly by women and children. Sanitation is effected by means of portable field latrines and refuse receptacles. Water supply is by means of standpipes from the main. The camps are kept in a reasonably good sanitary condition.

(g) Mortuary Accommodation

The Mortuary attached to the Faversham Cottage Hospital is used as required.

2. Inspection and Supervision of Food(a) Milk

Pasteurisation by the 'Holder' process is carried out at two dairies. This process is under the supervision of the Food and Drugs Authority, i.e. the County Council. There are four premises registered as dairies, one less than the preceding year and five registered distributors. Twenty dealers' licences to retail sterilized milk have been granted.

A sample of pasteurised milk taken during the year was satisfactory.

(b) Meat

There is one licensed slaughterhouse which is operated by local butchers for the production of home-killed meat. This is generally kept in a reasonable condition and appears to be sufficient at present for local requirements.

There was a decrease in the number of animals slaughtered as compared with the previous year, i.e. 1954, 5,545, 1955, 4,268, chiefly in respect of bovines, sheep and lambs. Pigs showed an increase. The amount of meat and organs condemned on account of diseased conditions totalled 1 ton 2 qrs. 2 lbs. This shows a considerable decrease on the previous year, i.e. 4 tons 13 cwts. 7 lbs. and is partly accounted for by the fall off in slaughtering during 1955.

The following Table IX shows particulars of the animals slaughtered and diseased conditions found.

TABLE IX

	Sattle ex- cludng Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
No. killed .....	379 (734)	158 (197)	62 (153)	930 (2,466)	2,739 (1,995)	4,268 (5,545)
No. inspected ...	379 (734)	158 (197)	62 (153)	930 (2,466)	2,739 (1,995)	4,268 (5,545)
All Diseases except <u>Tuberculosis</u>						
Whole carcases condemned	- (-)	1 (2)	- (-)	3 (12)	- (10)	4 (24)
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	38 (74)	11 (14)	- (-)	4 (106)	14 (20)	67 (214)
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	10% (10%)	7.6% (8.1%)	- (-)	7% (4.7%)	5% (1.5%)	- (-)
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcases condemned	- (3)	- (2)	- (-)	- (-)	- (2)	- (7)
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	20 (55)	10 (31)	- (-)	- (-)	1 (2)	31 (88)
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	5.2% (7.9%)	6.3% (16.3%)	- (-)	- (-)	0.4% (0.2%)	- (-)

(Figures in brackets are the corresponding figures for 1954)

(c) Other Foods

1 ton 14 cwts. 12 lbs. of other foodstuff's were condemned during the year as unfit for human consumption. These included fish, imported meat and groceries. This amount also shows a marked decrease on that of the preceding year which almost totalled eight tons. It is due probably in some measure to the fact that the huge stocks of tinned war-time foodstuff's have now been disposed of and new stocks are now available. The total amount of foodstuff's condemned including meat totalled two and three quarter tons.

(d) Preparation of Preserved Foods

This heading includes sausage manufacture, the preparation of cooked meats, fish frying, etc.

Twenty-nine premises are registered for these purposes. Routine inspections are made and the premises generally are kept in a satisfactory condition.

(e) Ice Cream

There are now fifty-four premises registered for the sale of ice-cream. None is manufactured in the district and very little is sold loose. All premises are equipped with modern refrigerated cabinets from which the ice-cream is sold.

(f) Bakehouses

These are generally kept in a satisfactory condition. There are seven in the district.

(g) Food Hygiene

The following Table shows the premises where food is sold or handled and the number of inspections made.

TABLE X  
FOOD PREMISES

<u>Premises</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Number of Inspections</u>
Butchers & Pork Butchers	15	134
Grocers	24	86
Fishmongers	4	.47
*Fish Fryers	6	11
Bakers & Confectioners	12	17
Greengrocers	9	17
Dairies	4	13
Cafes & teashops	8	16
Hotels	5	6
General Shops	34	23
*Ice-cream	54	29
*Preserved Food	29	19
Total	<u>204</u>	<u>418</u>

(h) Food & Drugs Act, 1938

By courtesy of the Chief Inspector, Weights and Measures Department, the following details are given of samples taken in Faversham under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

<u>Article</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Article</u>	<u>No.</u>
Chlorodyne	1	B/fd.	71
Coffee and Chicory Essence	1	Olive Oil	1
Full Cream Milk Chocolate caramels	1	Orange Curd	1
Gin	2	Parrish's Food	1
Ground Caraway Seeds	1	Phenacetin Tablets	1
Gelatine	1	Phenolphthalein Tablets	1
Ham Spread	1	Pork Brawn	1
Holiday Dandies	1	Pork Pies	1
Home-made Lard	1	Pork Sausages	1
Ice Cream	2	Pork Sausage Meat	1
Jellied Veal	1	Ravioli with Tomato Sauce	1
Jinjaleena	1	Seidlitz Powder	1
Kwells	1	Silvox	1
Lemon Flavouring	1	Spaghetti in Tomato Sauce with	
Milk	53	Cheese	1
Milk Chocolate Mint Cream Biscuit	1	Tea	1
Milk Chocolate Sandwich Wafer	1	Tincture of Benzoin	1
	C/fd. 71	Whisky	1
			<u>87</u>

Summary

Milks .....	53
Drugs .....	7
Spirits .....	3
Other samples .	24
	<u>87</u>

All the above samples were genuine with the exception of the Following:-

<u>Sample of</u>	<u>Analysis</u>	<u>Action taken</u>
Pork Sausage Meat.	Fat 4%, Lean 35%, Total Meat ) 7%, Sulphite none. Excessive ) fat - exceeds lean )	Maker cautioned
Spaghetti in Tomato Sauce with Cheese.	Fat 0.55, Total Solids 16.0%, ) Tomato Solids 0.8%. Cheese ) cannot be more than 1.5% ) Sample does not taste of it. )	Makers informed. Amount of cheese increased.

<u>Sample of</u>	<u>Analysis</u>	<u>Action taken</u>
T.T. Milk	13.3% deficient in fat	
T.T. Milk	16.7% deficient in fat.	}
Milk	10% deficient in fat	)
Milk	3.3% deficient in fat.	)
Milk	Contained 5% added water	)
Milk	Contained 1% added water	)
Milk	Contained 11% added water	)
Milk	Contained 9% added water	)
Milk	Contained 13% added water	)
		Due to improper mixing. Producer warned. Further samples satisfactory.
		Due to improper mixing. Producer warned. Further samples satisfactory.
		Proceedings taken. Fines imposed £20 plus £7. 17. 6d. costs. Total £27. 17. 6d.

### 3. Disinfection and Disinfestation

Eight disinfections were carried out during the year as follows:-

Tuberculosis	4
Poliomyelitis	1
Scarlet Fever	2
Cancer	1
Total	<u>8</u>

This compares with six for the preceding year.

Three disinfestations have been carried out at two premises infested with fleas and one with cockroaches.

### 4. Rodent Control

A total of 392 inspections were made during 1955 in connection with Rodent Control and 116 treatments carried out. A Rodent operator from the Council's Highway Staff is employed part-time on Rodent Control and this arrangement continues to work satisfactorily.

The following table shows particulars of inspections and treatments.

TABLE XI

	Local Authority	Type of Property				Total
		Dwelling-Houses	Agricultural	All other including Business Premises		
1. Total number of Properties in Local Authority District	23	4,452	17	213	4,705	
2. Number of Properties inspected by Local Authority	23	223	9	137	392	
3. Number of properties inspected found to be infested by rats	5	64	4	19	92	
4. No. of properties inspected found to be seriously infested with mice	-	11	-	13	24	
5. No. of Properties treated by Local Authority	5	75	4	32	116	

#### 5. Rag Flock Act, 1951

There are no premises in the district to which this Act applies.

#### 6. Pet Animals Act, 1951

There are two premises licensed for the sale of pet animals. This mainly concerns the sale of cage birds.

#### 7. Summary

Appendix 'B' summarises Sanitary inspections and visits (other than those in connection with housing) carried out during the year.

SECTION VIHOUSING

1. The following is a summary of action taken under the Housing and Public Health Acts during the year.

(a) Inspections of Dwelling-houses for housing defects	... 147
(b) Number of Dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	... 32
(c) Number of housing defects found (other than in (b) above)	... 107
(d) Number of defects remedied without services of formal notices	... 105
(e) (i) Number of Statutory Notices served under Public Health Act	... 2
(ii) Number of Statutory Notices complied with	... 2
(f) (i) Number of new houses erected by Local Authority	... 79
(ii) Number of new houses erected by Private Enterprise	... 7

2. The following statement shows various types of nuisances and Housing defects dealt with:-

	<u>Defects</u>	<u>Visits &amp; Revisits</u>
Leaking & defective roofs	28	33
Damp & defective walls	15	19
Defective ceilings	8	11
Defective floors	5	8
Defective doors & windows	12	17
Defective chimneys	2	4
Defective coppers, stoves & fireplaces	7	9
Insufficient ventilation	1	2
Defective drains	7	13
Blocked drains	13	17
Cesspools full	2	3
Cesspools insufficient	1	3
Defective W.C. cisterns	2	3
Defective W.C. pans	5	9
Defective sinks	3	4
Dirty houses	1	3
Deposit of refuse	1	4
 Totals	 113	 162
 =====	 =====	 =====

### 3. Unfit Houses

Four Areas of seven, five, seven and eight houses respectively were dealt with during the year as part of the Council's Five Year Slum Clearance programme. Five individually unfit houses were also dealt with. Closing orders were made in respect of three and demolition orders in respect of two houses. The total number of houses dealt with in Clearance Areas and as individually unfit was thirty-two. No inquiries were instituted by the Minister in respect of any of the Areas.

### 4. Provision of Houses

The following table shows the number of houses built each year since the end of the war.

TABLE XII.

Year	Council Temporary	Houses Permanent	Police Houses	Private Enterprise	Total
1946	50	-	-	1	51
1947	-	18	-	5	23
1948	-	53	-	10	63
1949	-	71	5	10	86
1950	-	61	-	11	72
1951	-	80	2	8	90
1952	-	66	-	7	73
1953	-	60	-	10	70
1954	-	72	5	3	80
1955	-	79	-	7	86
Totals	50	560	12	72	694

SECTION VIIFACTORY ADMINISTRATION

## 1. (i) Number of Factories on Register:-

(a) Factories with mechanical power	...	76
(b) Factories without mechanical power	...	31
Total	...	<u>107</u>

## (ii) Number of Inspections:-

(a) Factories with mechanical power	...	41
(b) Factories without mechanical power	...	14
Total	...	<u>55</u>

## 2. Cases in which defects were found:-

	Found	Remedied	Referred	
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	3	3	-	1
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)				
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-
Totals	3	3	-	1

SECTION VIIIFAVERSHAM PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

There has been no alteration during the year in the area of the Port which for sanitary administration is divided into two sections, viz, (a) The Eastern Section (Faversham Creek) and (b) The Western Section (Milton Creek).

1. Staff

Name of Officer	Nature of Appointment	Date of Appointment	Qualifications	Any other Appointment held
John Terence Murphy	Medical Officer	1st Feb., 1955.	M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H,	Medical Officer of Health Faversham Borough Sittingbourne & Milton U.D.C., Swale R.D.C., Borough of Queenborough, Sheerness U.D.C. & Sheppey R.D.C.
Arthur John Hurn	Sanitary Inspector	1st. Dec. 1945	C.R.San.I.	Sanitary Inspector Borough of Faversham. Chief
Alexander Leslie	Sanitary Inspector	1st Aug., 1945	C.S.I.E.J.B.	Sanitary Inspector Sittingbourne & Milton U.D.C.

Address - Medical Officer of Health - Municipal Offices,  
Preston Street  
Faversham.  
(Telephone No. Faversham 2313).

II. Amount of Shipping entering district during the year:-

Ships from	Number	Tonnage	Number Inspected <sup>1</sup>		Number of Ships reported as having or having had during the voyage infectious disease aboard
			Medical Officer	Sanitary Inspector	
(i) Eastern Section					
(a) Coastwise	13	1,163	Nil	2	Nil
(b) Foreign	12	1,332	Nil	3	Nil
(c) Lighter & Barges	370	14,800	Nil	1	Nil
(ii) Western Section					
(a) Coastwise	437	49,090	Nil	3	Nil
(b) Foreign	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(c) Lighter & Barges	132	13,808	Nil	5	Nil
Totals	964	80,193	Nil	14	Nil

III. Character of Shipping and Trade during the year:-

(i) Passenger traffic	...	Nil
(ii) Cargo traffic	...	Nil
(a) Eastern Section:-		
Principal Imports	...	Petrol, Crude Oil, Fertilizer, Grain and Timber
Principal Exports	...	Nil.
(b) Western Section		
Principal Imports	...	Gypsum stone, Coal, China Clay, Timber, Ballast and Sand.
Principal Exports	...	Cement and Paper.
(iii) Principal Ports from which Ships arrive:-		
(a) Eastern Section		
Coastwise	...	Thames Estuary
Foreign	...	Rotterdam, Antwerp, Hamburg.
(b) Western Section		
Coastwise	...	London and Rochester
Foreign	...	Nil
IV. Inland Barge Traffic	...	Nil.

## V. Water Supply

### (i) Source -

(a) For the Port - Eastern Section is supplied by the Faversham Water Company and the Western Section by the Sittingbourne and Milton U.D.C. Water Undertaking. Both sources are deep wells in the chalk and the supplies are chlorinated.

(b) For Shipping - as above to hydrants on the wharves.

### (ii) Reports on tests for Contamination.

Six samples were taken for bacteriological examination in the Eastern Section and fifteen in the Western Section during the year. All were satisfactory.

### (iii) Precautions taken against contamination of hydrants and hose-pipes. These are periodically inspected.

### (iv) Water Boats -

Nil.

## VI. Public Health (Ships Regulations), 1952

### (i) List of Infected Areas.

Owing to the character of the trade it is not considered necessary to issue regular lists. Cases of infectious disease would be removed to local Infectious Diseases Hospital and disinfection of Ships, persons, clothing and other articles would be carried out by the Port Sanitary Staff.

## VII. Smallpox

Cases of Smallpox would normally be sent to the Long Reach Hospital, Dartford, by ambulance from the Kent County Council Ambulance Service.

Consultants are available from the Joyce Green Hospital, Dartford.

## VIII. Venereal Diseases

Information concerning clinics for the above are posted on the wharves.

## IX. Cases of Notifiable and Other Infectious Diseases dealt with during the year.

Nil.

X. Malaria

There were no cases during the year.

XI. Measures taken against Ships infected with or suspected for Plague

No infected or suspected vessels arrived during the year.

XII. Measures against Rodents in Ships from Foreign Ports

No cases of rat infestations were found during the year.

XIII. Inspection of Ships for Nuisances

No nuisances were found on any of the ships during the year.

XIV. Public Health (Shellfish) Regulations

The position is as reported in 1952, i.e. the layings between Elmley Ferry and Milton Creek and the public layings between the Port's Western boundary and Harty Ferry are prohibited for the gathering of shellfish for sale for human consumption unless relaid in fresh water for a period of fourteen days.

XV. Medical Inspection of Aliens

Faversham is not an approved Port.

XVI. Arrangements for burial on shore of persons who have died on board from infectious disease

The arrangements are as reported in 1952, i.e., body would be removed to mortuary and then transported for burial under sanitary supervision.

## APPENDIX "A"

Readings Recorded at the Borough Sewage Works  
 (By courtesy of Mr. Colin Walton)

Month	Temperatures		Rainfall ( in inches)
	Maximum	Minimum	
January	53° (56°)	19° (13°)	3.03 (2.16)
February	52° (53°)	20° (14°)	1.66 (1.83)
March	60° (62°)	22° (28°)	1.52 (2.20)
April	74° (64°)	29° (28°)	.23 (.20)
May	71° (86°)	35° (37°)	4.34 (1.67)
June	83° (79°)	35° (44°)	1.83 (3.63)
July	83° (80°)	47° (46°)	2.76 (1.89)
August	83° (83°)	45° (46°)	2.31 (3.87)
September	78° (84°)	41° (38°)	1.19 (1.23)
October	67° (70°)	29° (30°)	5.09 (2.06)
November	62° (62°)	25° (30°)	1.05 (5.30)
December	56° (56°)	25° (26°)	1.6 (1.39)
Total			26.61 (27.43)

## APPENDIX "B"

Particulars of Sanitary Inspections and Visits

Infectious Disease and Disinfections	...	10
Slaughterhouse	...	588
Butchers Shops	...	182
Grocers Shops	...	117
Dairies	...	.23
Fish Shops	...	72
Bakehouses	...	8
Food Preparing Premises	...	26
Fish Frying Establishments	...	23
Ice Cream Shops	...	47
Fruit & Vegetable Shops	...	15
Factories	...	55
Rats and Mice	...	388
Verminous Premises	...	3
Total	...	<u>1,557</u>

